

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2015**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE BUILDING WORK OF GOD**

Message Eight

Being Broken and Allowing Christ to Make His Home in Our Hearts

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 4:16; Eph. 3:16-21; 2:21-22; 4:16

I. The first step in God's building work is the work of breaking the old creation—the breaking of the outer man, our natural constitution; building requires breaking—Matt. 16:18; 2 Cor. 4:16:

- A. In order to be built up with others in the church as the Body of Christ, we need to be broken; this is the requirement for building—Eph. 4:16:
 - 1. A person who desires to be built up must be willing to accept the breaking; this is the basic requirement for the building up.
 - 2. To be broken means to be no longer whole; a person who is built up in the church as the Body of Christ is a broken person.
 - 3. There is no way to have the building up if we insist on remaining whole and are unwilling to be broken—cf. 1 Pet. 5:6; 2:5.
 - 4. Breaking issues in joining and knitting and produces the building.
 - 5. No matter what our condition is, our outer man, our natural constitution, needs to be broken; every part of our soul needs to be broken by God—2 Cor. 4:16.
- B. A person whose natural constitution has been broken before God is weakened and decreased; hence, Christ increases in him—Eph. 3:17a.
- C. God's purpose is to lead His saints to pass through the stage of the breaking of the natural constitution in order to attain to the fullness of God—v. 19.
- D. The two natures—of God and of man—are built upon Christ and upon breaking: in relation to Christ, there is building; in relation to us, there is breaking.
- E. Christ does not need whole vessels; instead, He needs broken vessels:
 - 1. Only broken vessels can be channels of living water; whole vessels can only be cisterns of dead water—2 Cor. 4:7-12; John 12:24-26.
 - 2. There is a need for the hand of God to break our being outwardly; that is, there is a need for the Spirit of God to arrange the outward environment to break and consume our being—1 Pet. 5:6.
 - 3. The progress of a Christian's spiritual life depends on how much he has been broken and to what stature Christ has grown in him.
 - 4. The growth of a Christian hinges on his being broken and on Christ's increasing in him—Eph. 3:17a; Col. 3:10-11.

II. If we would cooperate with the building work of God, we need to allow Christ to make His home in our hearts—Eph. 3:16-17a:

- A. Paul prayed that we would be strengthened into the inner man with the result that Christ could make His home in our hearts and thereby occupy, possess, permeate, and saturate our whole inner being with Himself—v. 17a.
- B. The more Christ spreads within us, the more He settles down in us and makes His home in us, occupying every part of our inner being, possessing all these parts, and saturating them with Himself.
- C. As Christ spreads into our heart, He becomes our person—v. 17a:
 - 1. We need to take Christ not only as life in our spirit but also as the person in our heart.
 - 2. The only way for Christ to be our person is for Him to make His home in our heart.
 - 3. If we take Christ as our person, allowing Him to spread into our heart, the person living in our heart will no longer be the self but will be Christ—Gal. 2:20.
- D. The Christ who is making His home in our hearts is an unlimited, immeasurable Christ—Eph. 3:18:
 - 1. As Christ makes His home in our hearts, we apprehend with all the saints the breadth, the length, the height, and the depth of Christ; these are the dimensions of the universe, the dimensions of the immeasurable Christ.
 - 2. Christ is the universal “cube,” and our experience of Him in and for the Body must be “cubical,” three-dimensional.
- E. When Christ makes His home in our hearts, we will be filled unto all the fullness of God—v. 19:
 - 1. The fullness of God is the Body of Christ as the expression of the Triune God to the uttermost, the ultimate consummation of the corporate expression of the Triune God.
 - 2. The Body of Christ is the unlimited expression of the unlimited Christ—1:22-23.
 - 3. If Christ makes His home in our hearts, we will be filled with the Triune God to the extent that we become His expression—3:20-21.
- F. The building up of the Body of Christ is the issue of the immeasurable Christ personally making His home in our hearts—v. 17a; 4:16:
 - 1. The content of the church is the Christ whom we take as our person, the Christ who is wrought into our being—Col. 3:10-11.
 - 2. If we would have the reality of the Body of Christ, we must allow Christ to make His home in our hearts.
 - 3. In order for Christ’s word in Matthew 16:18 concerning the building up of the church to be fulfilled, the church needs to enter into a state where many saints allow Christ to make His home in their hearts, possessing, occupying, and saturating their entire inner being.
 - 4. The more Christ occupies our inner being, the more we will be able to be built up with others in the Body—Eph. 2:21-22; 4:16.